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A. V. Allen

FIFTH SESSION OF THE R. & H. CONGRESS

CONVENES AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL NEXT WEEK FOR THREE-DAY SITTING.

MOST IMPORTANT MEETING

Four Thousand Delegates Expected There and an Immense Business Program to be Disposed of.

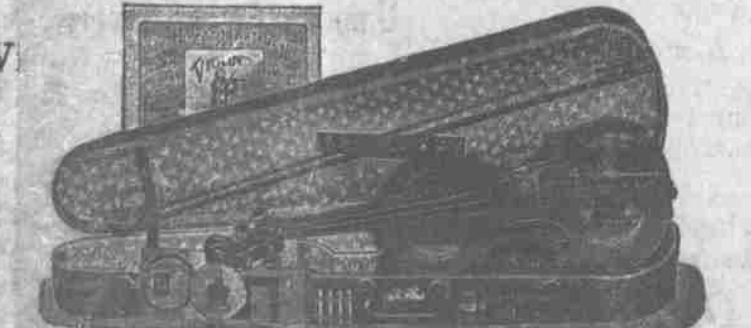
The fact that not less than 4,000 delegates are expected to attend the fifth session of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, to convene at Washington on December 9 and continuing throughout the two succeeding days, is a complete evidence in itself of the deep interest taken in the vital question of waterway improvement. The expectation is not only based upon the membership of the Congress—a membership constantly growing—but upon the official notifications from Governors of States, Mayors of cities, Presidents and Secretaries of agricultural, industrial, commercial, financial and trade organizations and on notifications from local associations organized for the advancement of the cause of waterway improvement.

The Ohio Valley Improvement Association was one of the earliest associations, and one of the strongest as it was one of the earliest associations advocating waterway improvement. It will be represented by not less than 250 delegates, with the associations for the improvement of other great waterways cordially uniting in the work of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress because of its broad and comprehensive platform—“A Policy; not a Project.”

It is now fully recognized that waterway improvement can only be accomplished by adhesion to that platform of principles. A definite system of operations is required no less in public works than it is in private enterprises. There can be no success where the parts of what should be a harmonious whole are made the subject of appropriations by no means adequate, with the work dependent upon the willingness of Congress to consider the subject, and with the subject frequently postponed for the reason that it is considered merely local in its intent and purpose. Appropriations have been dependent upon the influence of the particular representative and always with the fatal defect that the subject of waterway improvement was not until the organization of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, presented in its proper light—as national and not local in its intent and purpose.

Fortunately the question of waterway improvement is now considered from the standpoint of its immeasurable and its national importance.

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Anti-Seawall Sentiment Caught on the Streets

A reporter for the Morning Astorian took pains yesterday to note the tone of utterances made on all sides with regard to the proposed seawall, without inviting any expressions himself, by hint or inquiry, and the following are among the most trenchant and popular of the opinions, unconsciously offered, but carefully itemized:

Said one man: “Municipal indebtedness is to be governed somewhat by the same rules that individual indebtedness is:—If it will not yield an income, it should not be incurred. There will be no income from a seawall; just dead expense, to be taken out of the taxpayer without return.”

Another sound citizen remarked: “There are other things needed in Astoria, beside a seawall! Schools, for instance. There are not now teachers enough nor school-houses enough. Are the people, especially we owners of small homes in Astoria, going to see our children denied school facilities in order that a seawall may be built? As I understand it, the school district is now in debt nearly \$90,000 and paying interest at the rate of \$5000 per annum. How much school tax will have to be raised to pay the interest, the indebtedness, the running expenses of schools, new teachers, and for new buildings? Must we send our children into the world short on education?”

A heavy taxpayer remarked: “They tell me there was a deficit in the fire department appropriations last year, and this, also, and I presume taxes will have to be raised; or, perhaps the fire service may be cut down, in order to secure a seawall!”

A well known citizen expressed himself thoughtfully, as follows: The county is over \$100,000 in debt, and much money is needed in the next two years to complete new roads. Large taxes will be called for that purpose. The problem with me is, which shall be postponed, the roads which settle up the country and make business, or the seawall which will do neither?”

A well known lawyer and taxpayer, said, in course of a discussion with a friend who happened to be contending for the seawall: “The State levies a tax; the county levies; the city levies; the school district levies; and if that seawall bill should pass, the Seawall Commission would levy. Each of these departments of government are separate and independent, and would make their levies without any regard whatever to the levies made by the others. There is

no board of review in the case, anywhere; and the total is hard to imagine.” The pro-seawall-ite had heard of.

A big landowner in this neighborhood spoke as follows: “How can manufactures, which employ labor, stand for the Astoria tax, as it is? Will any more of them come here, when they can go to Warrenton, or to Seaside, or other places, to build, and so escape the Astoria tax?”

A citizen intimately related to the water interests of the city, said: “The water department, which now costs from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per annum, is about to incur an additional indebtedness of from \$200,000 to \$300,000, with an increase of from ten to fifteen thousand dollars a year; and it may become necessary to increase the water rates. To me, as to all men, water is a necessity; we cannot live without it. We can all live without the seawall, for some years to come.”

One of the best posted men in this city, who has long been associated with her public agencies and interests, talked as follows upon this interesting theme: “Under the present seawall bill bonds, without limit, can be issued for filling in the tide-flats. Who is to pay them? If the lots will not sell for as much as the tax, the city is to take the loss for the amount of the assessment. Who will pay the tax then? The city has now taken in about 1000 lots which would not bring the amount of street tax against them. Who is paying that tax? Is it the general taxpayer? Another bunch of lots, taxed beyond their value, will be taken over next year. These disposals of property not only take from the owners their property but force the general taxpayer to pay more taxes, and to pay money which it was not contemplated he should pay. Every lot so wiped out reduces the assessable property of the city. Does the taxpayer wish to pay for delinquent tide-flat taxes also?”

This was the trend all day long. These expressions could be strung out interminably, and the name of the speakers given for them all; but as this was a still-hunt, and the men asserting themselves quite unconscious of the notes being taken, their names are withheld under the courtesy requisite in such cases. The seawall bill is doomed for this time, and the time and the conditions thereof are propitious for the doom.

THE GIRL AND CHRISTMAS.

We seldom stop to think, during the mad rush of business that goes on till the stroke of twelve on Christmas Eve, how terrible becomes the strain on men and women who have to cater to the wants of the public. The story of the girl behind the counter has been told and re-told; whether her lot grows easier or not I do not know—but there are others. Last year I bought something of a young woman who runs an arts and craft shop.

“You look tired, I said. “Tired? Oh, I am not tired; for I get to bed at midnight now. Next week I shall not be so lucky. If people would only shop a little earlier in the month! And if they would only buy what I have on hand instead of giving orders that are nearly duplicates! Here is a bowl; to-night I have to paint another just like it, except that a line of yellow goes where now a touch of blue runs through the flower wreath. I have a book-slide to I must leave out a few acorns. If women could realize the toil, the loss of sleep, and the nerve wear, they would be more merciful. A man is entirely different. He takes what he likes or goes without. Long before Christmas comes the holiday means nothing to me but respite from all-night toil. While others are making merry, I luxuriate in one long, unbroken, blessed sleep.”

Then, how many women take thought of the overworked market-man and his helpers? During the hurry of Christmas gift-making there is little chance to plan the feast; so marketing becomes an afterthought. It is the same in the village, the town and the city; every dealer will tell you the same story. During the last two days before Christmas come such an avalanche of orders for supplies which could just as well have been laid in weeks before that men toiled all night, while horses and drivers drop from sheer exhaustion. It is not that women are cruel; they simply do not think.

Morning Astorian, 60 cents per month

WOMAN IN CANNIBALAND.

Miss Annie Ker tells some gruesome stories in the Wide World Magazine for December anent her experience in a land peopled with cannibals.

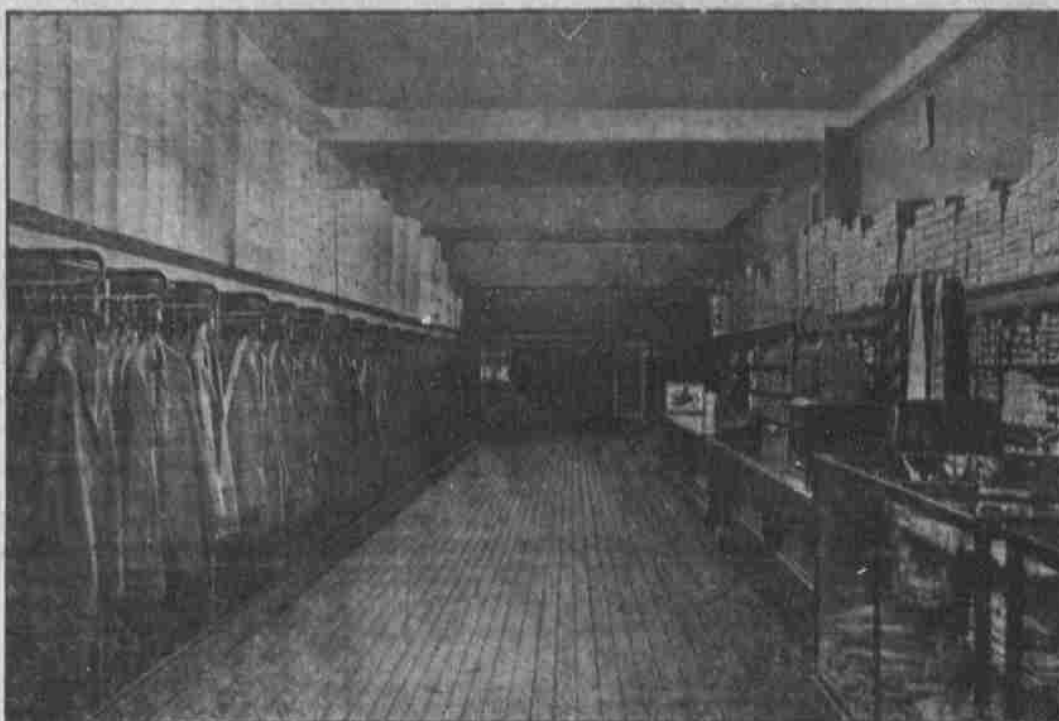
“The village of Wedau,” she says, “where I disembarked, had been, not many years before, the scene of frequent cannibal feasts, and I have many photographs which illustrate the methods by which hapless captives were carried off the fields in the bad old days, to be afterwards cooked and eaten. The victim, sometimes only stunned or wounded was lashed by the hands and feet to a stout pole, which was borne on men's shoulders through the village. Sometimes several of these unhappy wretches were captured at a time, and the treatment they received before being mercifully killed was cruel to a degree. Samuel Alger, a Wedanau Christian, once related to me incidents of great barbarity which had taken place in the village in connection with the slaughter of a man taken prisoner by the villagers. The poor wretch asked in vain for water to drink, and was stoned and otherwise tormented for a considerable time before being given the coup de grace. This was customary.” It is interesting to learn from Miss Ker's article that girls as well as boys learn cooking in Wedau at a very early age.

NAME MEANS SOMETHING.

When A. E. Petersen built and named the “Modern” barber shop, he meant that it should stand for what it was called. No patron has missed a single feature of the modern tonsorial parlor in that house; and every new device in the way of perfect comfort and service is constantly added as it develops. The latest is an expert, bootblack, the best in the business; a qualification that makes his employment really modern.

AN EXPLOSION.

Excitement was in tense in the local room of the St. Louis Republic. An explosion had been heard apparently only two or three blocks away,



JUDD BROS.

How About Your Christmas Suit and Overcoat?

Have you made up your mind what you are going to wear? Before you buy you had better call at Judd Bros., Astoria's most up-to-date clothiers and furnishers and find out the latest style in men's clothing. We will be glad to show you through our fine stock, where you will have an opportunity to become acquainted with the latest novelties in men's wearing apparel.

We not only have the most up-to-date store in the city but we also carry the finest stock to be had in our line. Our prices are right and we will sell you an all-wool suit of clothes for from \$7.50 to \$40.00. While we sell the best clothing in the city we also have a fine line of Suits at the following prices \$7.50, \$10.00 \$12.50 and \$15.00.

We also wish to call special attention to our holiday goods which are arriving daily—Fine Neckwear, Gloves, Hats, Bath Robes, Smoking Jackets, Silk and Linen Handkerchiefs, Sweater Coats, fine Bags and Suit Cases. Come early and get you Xmas presents while you have a large assortment to pick from.

JUDD BROS.

The Woolen Mill Store.

557 Commercial Street

and one of the best reporters on the staff had been sent out to investigate. Presently the reporter sauntered back in a most unconcerned manner. “Well, what was it?” asked the city editor.

“Oh, nothing but a Globe-Democrat reporter falling down on an assignment,” was the reply. Ex.

WOMEN ON THE FARM.

Should Flee The Cities And Try County Life.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—“If woman would be treated as an equal, receive the same consideration as men, the same recompense for their time, they must flee the city, where even professional men regard them and their talents as inferior, and take up the attractive vocation of livestock farming and agriculture” was the key-note of an address given yesterday at the Chicago Woman's Club by Mrs. Virginia Meredith, of Cambridge City, Ind., who believes that livestock raising and scientific agriculture are an outlet for mental energy.

“Women find livestock farming peculiarly attractive,” said Mrs. Meredith, “because the open market is the arbiter of values—a comely short-horn, a tidy southdown, a fine horse—these, like a bushel of wheat or a ton of hay, sell on their merits, with never a suggestion that the price should be discounted because they are grown on a farm owned and managed by a woman—a discount relentlessly enforced when women compete in factories, stores, schoolrooms or elsewhere.”

BEEES IN THE CITY.

In Chicago Some 300 Business Men Have Their Hives.

CHICAGO, Dec. 3.—The Chicago Northwestern Bee Keepers' Association is holding its annual meeting here. It developed that the keeping of

bees is not always associated with the pastoral scenes as is commonly supposed. Within the confines of Chicago some 300 business men and women spend their leisure looking after beehives and handling the honey which they produce.

Secretary Herman H. Moore of Park Ridge explained that queen bees were valued at about \$10 each. Mr. Moore said there are more than 35,000 bee keepers in the United

States. About 1,000 of these are located in Cook county and 300 in the city of Chicago.

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